वन क्षेत्रों के भीतर नदी तलों से शिलाखण्डों, पत्थरों आदि को निकाला जाना

481. **श्री मनोहर कान्त ध्यानी: क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री 4 दिसंबर, 1998 को राज्य सभा में अतारांकित प्रश्न 643 के दिए गए उत्तर को देखेंगे और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:—**

(क) क्या नैनीताल और देहरादून की पर्वतीय तराई में वनों के भीतर नदियों द्वारा लाई गई रेत आदि हटाने से संबंधित ठेकों पर हस्ताक्षर केन्द्रीय सरकार की अनुमति से हुए हैं; और

(ख) क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार, लोगों के हित और सुविधा की दृष्टि से पर्वतीय क्षेत्रों में ऐसे ठेके करने के लिए राज्य सरकार को दिशा-निर्देश जारी करने का विचार रखती है ताकि हर मामले में केन्द्रीय सरकार की अनुमति आवश्यक न हो?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री बाबू लाल मरांडी): (क) जी, नहीं। उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य सरकार की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार नैनीताल और देहरादून जिलों की नदियों से रेत, गोला पत्थर आदि उठाने के ठेकों का नवीकरण नहीं किया गया है क्योंकि राज्य सरकार ने निर्णय लिया है कि 1998 की उत्तर प्रदेश की वन नीति के अंतर्गत सभी नए पदों को उत्तर प्रदेश वन निगम को दिया जायेगा।

(ख) वन क्षेत्रों से गोला पत्थर, बजरी आदि एकत्र करने के लिए वन (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1980 के अंतर्गत केन्द्रीय सरकार का पूर्वानुमोदन लेना पड़ता है। मंत्रालय ने वन (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1980 के कार्यान्वयन के लिए पहले ही विस्तृत दिशानिर्देश जारी कर दिए हैं तथा राज्य सरकारों से अपेक्षा की जाती है कि वे इन दिशानिर्देशों का पालन करें।

Forest Related Projects of Himachal Pradesh

482. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of forest related projects received from the state of Himachal Pradesh which are lying pending for clearance with the Central Government; and

(b) the details of the Forest land in Himachal Pradesh which has been transferred for construction of roads/Government buildings and various other construction/projects during the last ten years, year-wise, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Presently there are three proposals of Himachal Pradesh which involve diversion of forest land under the Forest (Conservaiton) Act, 1980 and are pending with the Central Government for forest clearance. The datails of these proposals are as under:

1. 400 KV S/C Transmission Line from Nalagarh to Kunihar.

2. Setting up Krishi Vigyan Kendra at Boktu (Nichar) by Dr. Parmar University, Solan.

3. Construction of Ekantwari-Dawala road via Jimu in Forest Division Kothagarh, District Shimla.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Pollution in Subarnarekha and Brahmani Rivers

483. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing pollution of Subarnarekha and Brahmani rivers in Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any steps are proposed to be taken to stop further pollution of these two premier rivers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) River Brahmani

Yes, Sir. The increasing pollution of river Brahmani is on account of the discharge of untreated domestic wastewater from urban settlements, and industrial and mining activities in its besin.

River Subarnarekha

The pollution in the river Subarnarekha is particularly in the stretch from Ranchi to Ghatshila in Bihar. The Central Pollution Control Board classified the Orissa stretch of Subarnarekha river as Class 'D', i.e. the water fit for wild life preservation and fisheries. The water quality measurements taken at three locations in Orissa i.e. Rajghat, Asti and Rasalpur indicate that the river is meeting the designated best use criteria for the stretch in Orissa and thus the river is not polluted in that segment.

(c) and (d) Measures are taken to check indsutrial pollution through regulation by the State Pollution Control Boards. The rivers Brahmani and Subarnarekha have been included under the National River Conservation Plan. Under this Plan, a sum of Rs. 9.62 crores has been provided for pollution abatement works in the towns of Talcher, Chandbali and Dharmshala (Orissa State) on the Brahmani river and a sum of Rs. 30.64 crores in the towns of Ranchi, Jamshedpur and Ghatshilla (Bihar State) on the Subarnarekha river.

The pollution abatement works include: Interception and diversion of sewage outfalls, treatment and disposal of wastewater, construction of low cost community toilet complexes, improved wood crematoria and river front development works etc.

Threat to Rhinos in Kaziranga National Park

484. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
SHRI RAGHAVJI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whetehr one-horned Rhinos in Kaziranga National Park are facing serious threat due to killing by poachers;

(b) what is the estimated number of such Rhinos in the Natioal Park;

(c) what is the numbr of killings reported during the last three years, yearwise; and

(d) what measures are contemplated to conserve and increase the number of this rare specie?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Poaching of Rhino is one of the major threats to its population in Kaziranga National Park.

(b) The estimated number of Rhinos in Kaziranga Natoinal Park is 1164 (1993 Census).

(c) The reported killings of Rhinos during the last three years is as follows:

Year	Number of Rhinos killed
1996	26
1997	12
1998	8

(d) Preventive measure are taken against poaching by arranging regular and intensive patrolling by the forest staff. help of Home guards is also being taken for protection. Highlands have been constructed to provide shelter to marooned animals during floods. Flood restoration works are also being undertaken.

Wild Life related Crimes in Delhi

485. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi tops in wildlife crimes over other metropolitan cities in the country;

(b) whether staff strength and resource position of Delhi's Wild Life Department is highly inadequate;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and